

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jacques Etkowicz on 11/24/10.

The application has been amended as follows: In the Claims

At the end of claim 1, --, and wherein the corresponding ends of each lace converge in respective and separate grips. --

was added in order to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 into claim 1.

In claim 1, line 36, the phrase "between to consecutive" was changed to -- between two consecutive --

in order to correct a typographical error.

In claim 1, line 44, the phrase "one end of first and second" was changed to -- one end of the first and second --

in order to correct a typographical error.

Claim 2 was canceled because its limitations were incorporated into claim 1.

Claims 9 and 15 were canceled in order to avoid redundancy with claims 4 and 5.

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In claim 14, the phrase "according to claim 16" was changed to

-- according to claim 6 --

in order to correct a typographical error.

In claim 16, the phrase "according to claim 15" was changed to

-- according to claim 5 --

in order to correct the dependency of the claim.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHARON M. PRANGE whose telephone number is (571)270-5280. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. M. P./ 12/4/10
Examiner, Art Unit 3728

/Mickey Yu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3728